



NEBRASKA

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Kevin Peters, Director, Teacher Certification

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss revisions to 92 NAC 23 *Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers and Administrators*.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chapter 23 has traditionally provided for a composite score option to meet the basic skills testing requirement for admission to a Nebraska educator preparation program and for subsequent certification. The composite option required a minimum score of 468 on the three Core Skills Tests (Mathematics, Reading, and Writing) with no single test score being more than one point below the score requirement for each individual test. The revision will allow a candidate to meet the basic skills testing requirement with a composite score of 468 or greater on all three Core Skills Tests (Core) without the previous qualifier regarding performance on an individual test.

Analysis of candidate performance on the Core indicates that this change will have a positive impact on increasing the pipeline of individuals seeking to enter the teaching profession, but will still provide educator preparation programs with important information about the basic skills of candidates. It is likely that candidates who are denied admission based on this testing requirement do well on two of the three testing requirements but may struggle with the third because of certain background considerations; however, with appropriate support these individuals can successfully complete a preparation program and be well-qualified teachers.

In addition, there are non-substantive revisions to Chapter 23. These revisions will be found with the Hearing Officers Summary from the December 1, 2017 Public Hearing.

ESTIMATED COST:

Publication and printing costs of final rule estimated at \$650.00